6: Grigolia E-4, 5 (no date) 1939 RI1 Georgia RI1

CHAPTER XI

Crime and Punishment

671 Like the other ethnic groups of the Caucasus, the Georgian mountaineers prosecuted, first of all in every crime, the material damage which had caused injury to their property. There was no discrimination made between voluntary and involuntary offenses, and an unsuccessful attempt to commit a crime went unpunished. No man among the Pshavs,[1] culpable in a murder committed either purposely or involuntarily, could be safe from blood-vengeance by the relatives of the man he killed. The Khevsurs, Tushes and Svans held the same views. More than that, the Svans customarily regard a person as guilty of a crime if the damage was done, even without his knowledge, by an object owned by him. This custom explains the existence of another—that of the victim's kinsmen taking from the murderer the weapon with which he committed the crime. This custom may explain the manner in which Prince Puta Dadiani was killed in Svanetia by the inhabitants; they took a gun belonging to the church and killed the Prince from the church window. This was done because they believed that the kinsmen of the murdered prince would have to deal, in avenging the crime, with the church, which was the proprietor of the gun. The gun and its proprietor, the church, in the opinion of the people, were responsible for the crime. This belief was found only in Free Svanetia, and did not exist in Princely Svanetia.

682 In Free Svanetia, involuntary murder or wounding, as a general rule, always has as a consequence the payment of the *wergild* (*tsor*). However, the same offense was not prosecuted in Princely Svanetia. Attempts to commit a crime were always left unprosecuted in Svanetia.[2]

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[1] Zisserman: 249.
[2] Kovalevsky: a, II, 32.